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A Normal School Opens

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that state. Moving to Ohio, Allyn was in turn professor at Ohio University and head of Wesleyan Female College in Cincinnati. In 1863 he was chosen president of McKendree College at Lebanon and according to the *Centennial History* of that institution served "the longest term of any president up to that time." Allyn's career at McKendree was extremely successful, and the Board of that college said at the time of his departure for Carbondale, ". . . in our judgment the affairs of the college were never in more satisfactory condition than now."

The opening term witnessed the introduction of many activities of the school. A practice school, known then as the model department, was organized, and was placed under the direction of Miss Julia F. Mason, a graduate of Illinois Normal University. A museum was started, and, regularly during the year, specimens were added to it. One of the prize pieces was "a gray eagle measuring nearly eight feet from tip to tip of wings."

Not many weeks elapsed before a literary society was founded by the students. While for some time it went nameless, or was referred to simply as the "Normal Society," eventually it was given the name, "Zetetic Literary Society." This organization has existed continuously since 1874. It is the oldest society on the campus and today holds one of the honorable places in the extra-curricular life at the Southern Illinois Normal University. These first literary society members seem to have been unusually active. They acquired a hall and furnished it. They held regular Friday meetings. They took an interest in affairs of the day, occasionally held debates on timely themes, and staged at least one excellent entertainment for the school.

The Normal continued to develop as the year advanced. The enrollment increased and the quality of student achievement was said to be better with each succeeding month. But there were some vicissitudes. The roof of the college building leaked. An epidemic of mumps broke out among the younger pupils. Severe weather frequently chilled the classrooms. The cold winter, incidentally, confounded one well-intentioned advertiser of the Normal. In praising the school and its environment he had constantly preached the mildness of the Egyptian winters and had suggested Carbondale as an elegant place to spend the months when it was cold in the north. The winter of 1874-75 proved to be a fierce one that seemed to give lie to the boasts of the mild climate.

The early troubles of Southern Illinois Normal proved to be only the growing pains of a young school. All in all, the opening year was a success, and the institution more than justified its existence. Looking over the growth of the enrollment, a reporter in truth could write, "The attendance thus far proves conclusively that this University is a needed institution in this part of the State." And so it has been ever since.

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